

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

Guiding Principles for General Education Reform at CSUB
RES 1213019

EC

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate approves the attached *Guiding Principles for General Education Reform at CSUB*.

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate establishes a short-term Task Force to develop models for a General Education Program based on these principles with a report due to the university community at University Day fall 2013.

Rationale

Starting in 2012, a group of faculty (Anne Duran, Andreas Gebauer, Liora Gubkin, Aaron Hegde, Vandana Kohli, Jeanne Harrie, David Saiki, John Tarjan) and administrators (Richard Collins, Carl Kemnitz, John Stark) attended conferences and workshops offered by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU), the CSU Chancellor's Office, and WASC to learn about General Education (GE) in the CSU and GE reform, and to engage in the national discussion surrounding GE. This was followed by two two-day workshops at CSUB open to all faculty, staff, and administrators to engage the campus community in a discussion on GE and GE reform. As a result of these efforts, the attached guiding principles for GE reform were developed to facilitate the development of the next GE program at CSUB.

Approved by the Academic Senate on February 28, 2013
Sent to the President for approval on March 12, 2013
Approved by the President on April 4, 2013

Guiding Principles for General Education Reform at CSUB

1. The General Education program at CSUB shall reflect the **central role of the liberal arts** as essential for the 21st –century global citizen as defined in the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) Essential Learning Outcomes and Principles of Excellence. (Liberal arts is defined as an integrated approach to a broad spectrum of disciplines, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences, rather than a more narrowly focused technical or professional education. See <http://www.org/leap/vision.cfm>.)
2. The General Education program at CSUB shall concentrate on **assessable competencies** as defined in the University’s Learning Outcomes (ULOs), including critical reasoning and problem-solving skills, oral and written communication, numerical literacy, information literacy, civic engagement, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning, and action, and synthesis of knowledge across disciplines.
3. The General Education program at CSUB shall be **coherent, integrative, and learning focused** across the curriculum and throughout the student’s education, including its relationship to the major.
4. The General Education program at CSUB must not exceed **the minimum number of credit hours** required by the CSU system (Title 5).
5. The General Education program at CSUB must address **structural issues** related to leadership, management, accountability, and resources.
6. The development of the General Education program at CSUB shall proceed in an inclusive way, with input from all stakeholders: staff, students, faculty, administration, and community.